

Where can parents get more information?

The IEA team will be holding **parent information sessions** for the IEA Program in eight regions across the state in June 2016. To register for the sessions, please visit the department's IEA webpage.

To subscribe to **receive monthly email updates** about the program and to get more information about the IEA Program, including parent resources and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the IEA webpage on the department's website:

tn.gov/education/section/iea



If you have questions about the IEA Program, please email:
IEA.Questions@tn.gov

Individualized Education Account Program

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Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program

The Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program provides the opportunity for parents of eligible students with disabilities to choose the education opportunities that best meet their child's own unique needs through access to public education funds.



Department of
Education

Individualized Education
Account (IEA) Program



Individualized Education Account (IEA) Program

Who is eligible to enroll in the IEA Program?

An “eligible student” must be a Tennessee resident who:

- 1) has an active individualized education program (IEP) through a public school district at the time of request for participation in the program;
- 2) meets at least **one** of the following requirements:
 - was previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school during the two semesters (or one full school year) immediately preceding the semester in which the student receives an IEA,
 - is entering kindergarten,
 - moved to Tennessee within six months prior to the date the student receives an IEA, **or**
 - received an IEA in the previous year; **and**
- 3) has one of the following disabilities identified in their IEP: autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairments, intellectual disability, orthopedic impairments, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impairments.

How much funding will be awarded to each student’s IEA?

This IEA award will not include federal funds or additional education funds that local governments contribute to the school district beyond the amount required by the state funding formula for education (BEP).



How can IEA funds be spent?

The funds will be deposited into an IEA for education-related expenses. Some examples include:

- private school tuition/fees/textbooks,
- educational therapy,
- tutoring,
- computer hardware, and
- curriculum.

For a complete list of approved expenses, visit the IEA webpage:

tn.gov/education/section/iea

How do parents apply to enroll their child in the IEA Program?

The application window will open in summer 2016 and will be announced through the monthly newsletter, the *IEA Update*, and on the IEA webpage. Applications will be due on **Oct. 14, 2016**. Before applying:

- Parents should consider:
 - all of their child’s educational needs,
 - the education options available,
 - the services that their child is currently receiving and the cost of those services,
 - the amount of funding their child will receive in the IEA Program and what services that funding would cover.
- Parents should fully understand that in order to participate they are **waiving all of their child’s rights to receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and are releasing the public school district from all obligations to educate the student. School districts are not required to provide any services to students enrolled in the IEA Program and are not accountable for their academic progress.

The *IEA Parent Handbook* further lists all of the responsibilities for parents/students enrolled in the program.

Average per student state and local funding amount for the district where the student resides



4 percent state administrative fee



Annual amount of student’s IEA award
(\$6,300 average statewide)